Call for You

Kimi ni shika Kikoenai

Story by
Utsumi

Art by
Yuzuki

TOKYOPOP

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CALLING YOU

Brought To You By:
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CALLING YOU

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Calling You

kimi ni todoke

By Setsuri Tsuzuki
Original Story by Otsuichi

TOKYOPOP

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

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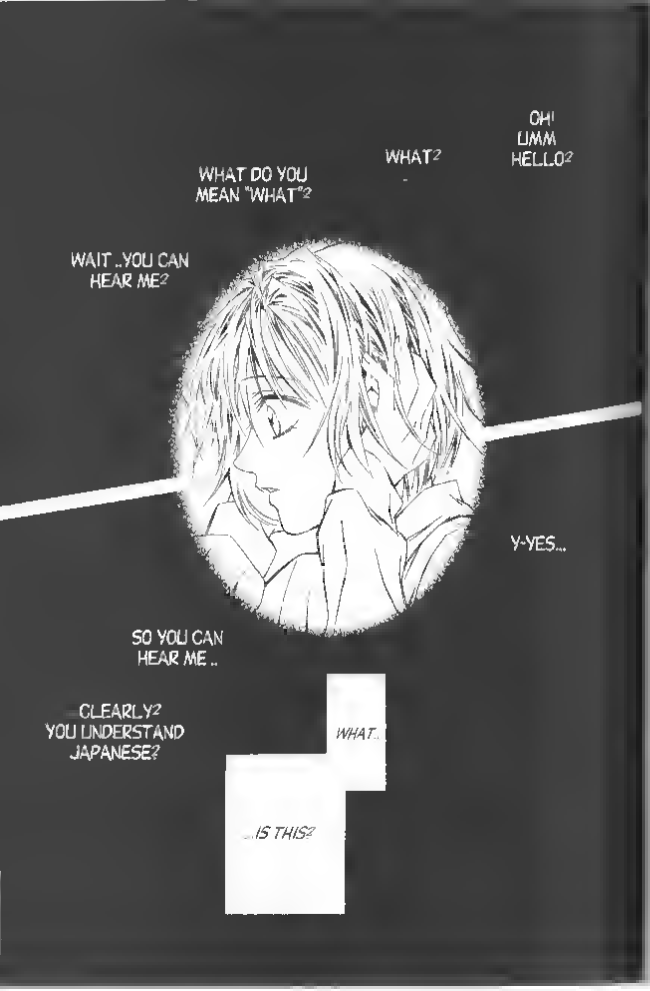

Calling you Vol 1

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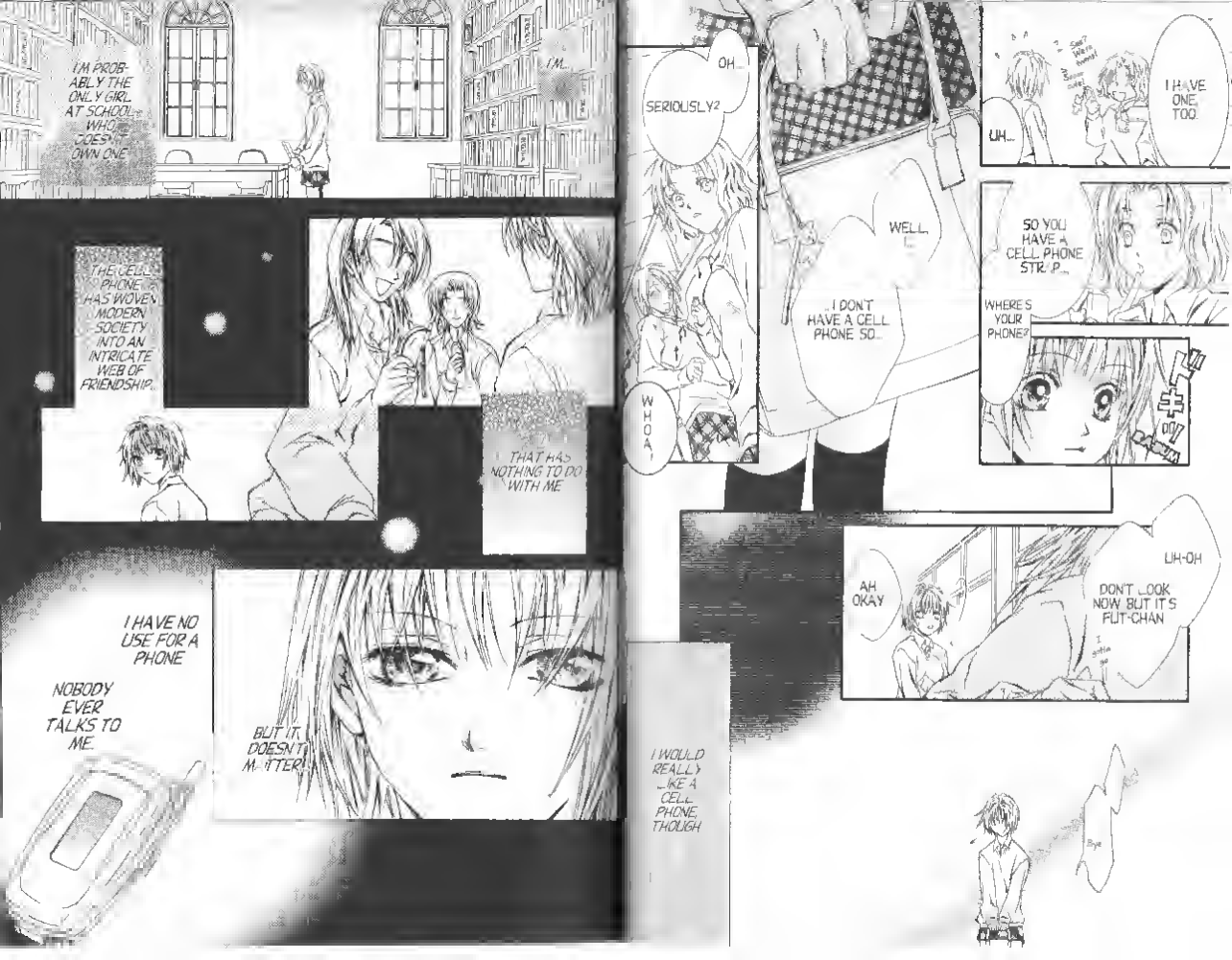
YOU'RE...
AIHARA SAN, RIGHT?
I-I'M SORRY...
I ran into you. It's totally my fault
EH. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
GREAT.
I JUST BOUGHT THIS PHONE.
HEY WE'RE HEADING OUT TO A KARAOKE BAR WANNA COME?
THAT'S PINKLE!
Beat Just Fed
HEY!
OH. I SEE...
I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT STUFF LIKE THAT
UH. I DON'T KNOW
カミヤン!!
KYAAAA!!
YES... BUT WHO ARE YOU?
BUT...
THIS.


I'M PROBABLY THE ONLY GIRL AT SCHOOL WHO DOESN'T OWN ONE
I'M...
THE CELL PHONE HAS WOVEN MODERN SOCIETY INTO AN INTRICATE WEB OF FRIENDSHIP.
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME
I HAVE NO USE FOR A PHONE
NOBODY EVER TALKS TO ME.
BUT IT DOESN'T M...TTER!
OH...
SERIOUSLY?
WHOA!
WELL...
...I DON'T HAVE A CELL PHONE SO...
UH...
I HAVE ONE TOO.
SO YOU HAVE A CELL PHONE STR...P...
WHERE'S YOUR PHONE?
I WOULD REALLY LIKE A CELL PHONE, THOUGH
AH OKAY
UH-OH
DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT IT'S FUT-CHAN
Bye

IF
IF I COULD...
...HAVE A CELL PHONE...WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE?
IT WOULD HAVE TO BE REALLY SMOOTH.
AND WHAT COLOR...?
...YES, WHITE WOULD BE NICE.
HMM...THEN I'D HAVE TO HAVE A GORGEOUS WALLPAPER IMAGE.
AND...FOR MY RING TONE...?

THE BEAUTIFUL THEME SONG FROM MY FAVORITE MOVIE...
..."CALLING YOU"
SEE?
I CAN ALMOST
...FEEL IT NOW
IN MY IMAGINATION
I ALREADY HAVE THE CELL PHONE OF MY DREAMS
BUT NOW...
...CAN I RECEIVE A CALL ON AN IMAGINARY CELL PHONE?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS...
YOU CAN REALLY HEAR ME...?

OH!
SONK
HOW CAN THIS BE?
I MEAN, I GUESS I'VE ACTU-ALLY BEEN TRYING FOR AWHILE...
THINKING THAT IF I FOCUSED HARD ENOUGH, I COULD FIND SOMEONE TO TALK TO THIS WAY.
UM...
SORRY
I HAVE TO GO. IS THAT OKAY?
I WAS ABOUT TO GIVE UP... CAUSE OF COURSE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
BUT THEN I FOUND YOU
SURE.
CAN I CALL YOU BACK IN A FEW HOURS?
OH!
WAIT!
Y-YEAH, THAT'D BE GREAT

Thank you Jesus.
WHAT? WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S NOTH-ING.
I JUST ALMOST FELL OFF THE BUS
Are you all right?
I'M JUST SO... SURPRISED--
HEY!
YOU CAN'T BELIEVE THIS?
I'M TALKING TO SOMEONE ON AN IMAGINARY CELL PHONE!
WHOA!
I CAN'T... BELIEVE IT.
SOMEONE BESIDES ME...
...HAS AN IMAGINARY CELL PHONE IN THEIR HEAD?!
I KNOW.
I'M TALKING ON AN IMAGINARY CELL PHONE TOO

BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE...!
I'M SO... ...LONELY.
I'M.
SHINYA NOZAKI! SHINYA NOZAKI!
WHAT?
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'M RYO AIHARA. I'M A SOPHO-MORE.
MY NAME'S SHINYA
SHINYA NOZAKI I'M A JUNIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL.
WHAT IS THIS?
WHAT IS THIS PHONE ANYWAY?
I THINK I REALLY AM GOING CRAZY!
AN ILLUSION MADE UP!
SHINYA NOZAKI...
MUST BE
WELL, LET'S MAKE SURE...
...BY ME. LONELY CRAZY ME
SUCH A FREAK. CAN'T TALK TO ANYONE. CAN'T MAKE FRIENDS.
SHINYA NOZAKI! SHINYA NOZAKI!
GOTTA REPEAT IT SO I WON'T FORGET!
WOW. I MUST HAVE FINALLY LOST IT

I'M NOT A BAD PERSON... OR ANYTHING...
ER... SORRY TO CALL OUT OF THE BLUE LIKE THIS
Gulp
YES HELLO?
PPPP
THAT VOICE, IT'S SO CLEAR IN MY HEAD. SO REAL...
YUP. THAT SETTLES IT. I REALLY HAVE GONE NUTS!
THIS NUMBER IS NO LONGER IN USE.
THIS NUMBER IS NO LONGER IN USE
THIS NUMBER IS NO LONGER IN USE.
DESPERATE
OKAY
THE WEATHER
PPPPP
I'VE GOT SOMEONE?!
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
HELLO AIHARA-SAN
I'M HARADA I'LL BE TWENTY EIGHT YEARS OLD THIS YEAR
RYO AIHARA
SUCH A KIND VOICE
YOU SOUND PRETTY CONFUSED
YOU KNOW...
SO WAS I AT FIRST

I KNOW
BUT WHAT IF HE NEVER CALLS AGAIN?
TRY IT WITH THE BOY AND SEE IF IT WORKS
HE WILL
IT'S NOT THAT I WANT TO BELIEVE IT
HE'LL CALL AGAIN
IT'S NOT THAT I NEED TO BE-LIEVE IT..
R-REALLY!
HE WILL!
ISN'T MY IMAGINATION
BUT IF THIS
IT'S AS IF
SHE'S READING MY TOTALLY DERANGED MIND
UM
SOMEONE JUST CALLED ME A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
AND I--
YOU THINK THAT PERSON IS A FIGMENT OF YOUR IMAGINATION
YOU WANT TO VERIFY IF HE REALLY EXISTS DON'T YOU?
DON'T WORRY..
THERE IS A WAY
Y YES
WHAT IS THIS ?

I FOUND THE PAGE YOU TOLD ME ABOUT!
今日のにゃんこ
特集
FOUND IT!
HOKKAIDO ..2!
Suddenly everything is so real!
SO YOU LIVE IN HOKKAIDO?!
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN PICK A MAGAZINE
ALL RIGHT THEN YOKOHAMA WALKER
THEN NOZAKI SAN REALLY DOES EXIST!
AND IF HE CAN TELL ME WHAT WAS ON THIS PAGE...
うあああ
Waaaah
Pffft
I GUESS THAT PROVES IT
Hee Hee
AROUND HERE I CAN ONLY FIND HOKKAIDO WALKER
W-WHY IS THAT?
THAT'S GONNA BE DIFFICULT

HMM I'VE BEEN WONDERING THE SAME THING
I KNOW!
WHAT IF WE DID A TEST TO PROVE EACH OTHER'S EXISTENCE?
..AM I JUST IMAGINING YOUR VOICE?
YOU MEAN
LIKE IF EACH OF US PICKS A BOOK OR A MAGAZINE THAT THE OTHER DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT..
All right
Go ahead baby
Make my day
RIGHT! ONE OF US COULD TELL THE OTHER WHAT'S IN IT THEN WE'LL CHECK TO SEE IF IT'S TRUE!

SIGH
WHERE YOU ARE RIGHT NOW?
WHAT DAY MONTH AND YEAR IS IT?
OCTOBER 21ST 2003 IT'S JUST FIVE P.M
HARADA-SAN SAID THAT'D BE THE CASE. THERE'S A TIME LAG
TIME LAG?
IT'S SIX O'CLOCK WHERE I AM.
THERE'S A DIFFERENCE OF LIKE SIX MONTHS BETWEEN ME AND HARADA SAN
REALLY?!
A BEAR?!
AH HA HA HA!
I'M SERIOUS THEY COME OUT SOME TIMES
URRR I'M SO BLOWN AWAY I MIGHT SEE A BEAR
I THOUGHT
I HAD FINALLY GONE CRAZY
OF COURSE YOU DID
THIS IS A REALLY WEIRD THING TO HAPPEN
SOMEONE IS ACTUALLY HAVING A CONVERSATION WITH ME.
WELL I DIDN'T COME UP WITH THIS
I MANAGED TO CALL SOMEONE ELSE TOO!
WHAT?
HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THIS IDEA?
WHAT?

HEY GIRLS INCLUDE HER ON YOUR TEAM WILL YOU?
DID NO ONE PICK YOU?
Grab
.....
. A BIZARRE FRIENDSHIP BEGAN
WHAT'S WRONG AIHARA?
FIND A TEAM TO BE ON

SO, UM... RYO... AIHARA SAN?
YES?
Heh Heh Heh
I HAVEN'T L..UGHED THIS HARD IN . LONG TIME
CAN I
..CALL YOU AGAIN SOMETIME?
!
AND SO...
OH... OKAY!

I'M AT A GARBAGE DUMP
WELL... I DON'T WANT HIM
TO KNOW WHAT I'M REALLY LIKE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOZAKI-SAN?
G-
GAR-BAGE?
WHY AM I LYING?
IT'S ALRIGHT
MY TEAM MATES ARE
UNDER STANDING... LIKE THAT
I'M IN GYM...
...PLAYING BASKET-BALL
What do you want for lunch
I'LL CALL YOU BACK LATER
NO, WAIT!
HELLO? NOZAKI SAN?
ARE YOU IN CLASS NOW?
IT'S FINE.
REALLY?
BUT YOU NEED TO CONCENTRATE. YOUR TEAM-MATES-
YUP
I'M LOOKING FOR AN APPLIANCE TO FIX
WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?
I DITCHED
PITCH

I LIKE TO...
FIX THINGS THAT ARE BROKEN.
CAN YOU FIX ANYTHING?
WELL... TO AN EXTENT
ONE TIME I FIXED A CD PLAYER FOR SOMEONE IT TOOK ME DAYS
THAT FELT REALLY GOOD
I HAVE COMPLETE FAITH THAT THE CD PLAYER WILL REMEMBER ME FONDLY AS THE PERSON WHO REVIVED ITS ELECTRONIC LIFE
IT MUST BE TRULY GRATEFUL TO ME
IT MUST BE HARD TO NOT KEEP IT FOR YOURSELF
BEING SO PROUD OF YOUR WORK, I MEAN
EH, IT WAS NO PROBLEM.

...I LIKE TO FIX THINGS NOT KEEP THEM.
AND IF IT'S HAPPY I'M HAPPY BESIDES
SO PARTING WITH THEM IS NO PROBLEM
NOZAKI-SAN IS SUCH A STRANGE PERSON!
AT FIRST IT WAS ONLY A FEW MINUTES AT A TIME.
THEN AN HOUR OR TWO
THE CONVERSATIONS GOT LONGER AND LONGER.
NOW THE PHONE IN MY HEAD IS ALMOST ALWAYS CONNECTED TO HIM.
AND...

YOU CAN DO IT!
IF I FAIL THIS TEST, I'M GONNA BE SCREWED!
ELEVENTH GRADE ENGLISH IS TOO HARD!
Urrr
YOU HELPED ME WITH MATH LAST WEEK...
I'll do my best
SO I'LL BE RIGHT HERE FOR YOU WITH ENGLISH!
Hah.
LET'S SEE "SAYS" IN "HE SAYS" IS SUPPOSED TO BE IN PAST TENSE
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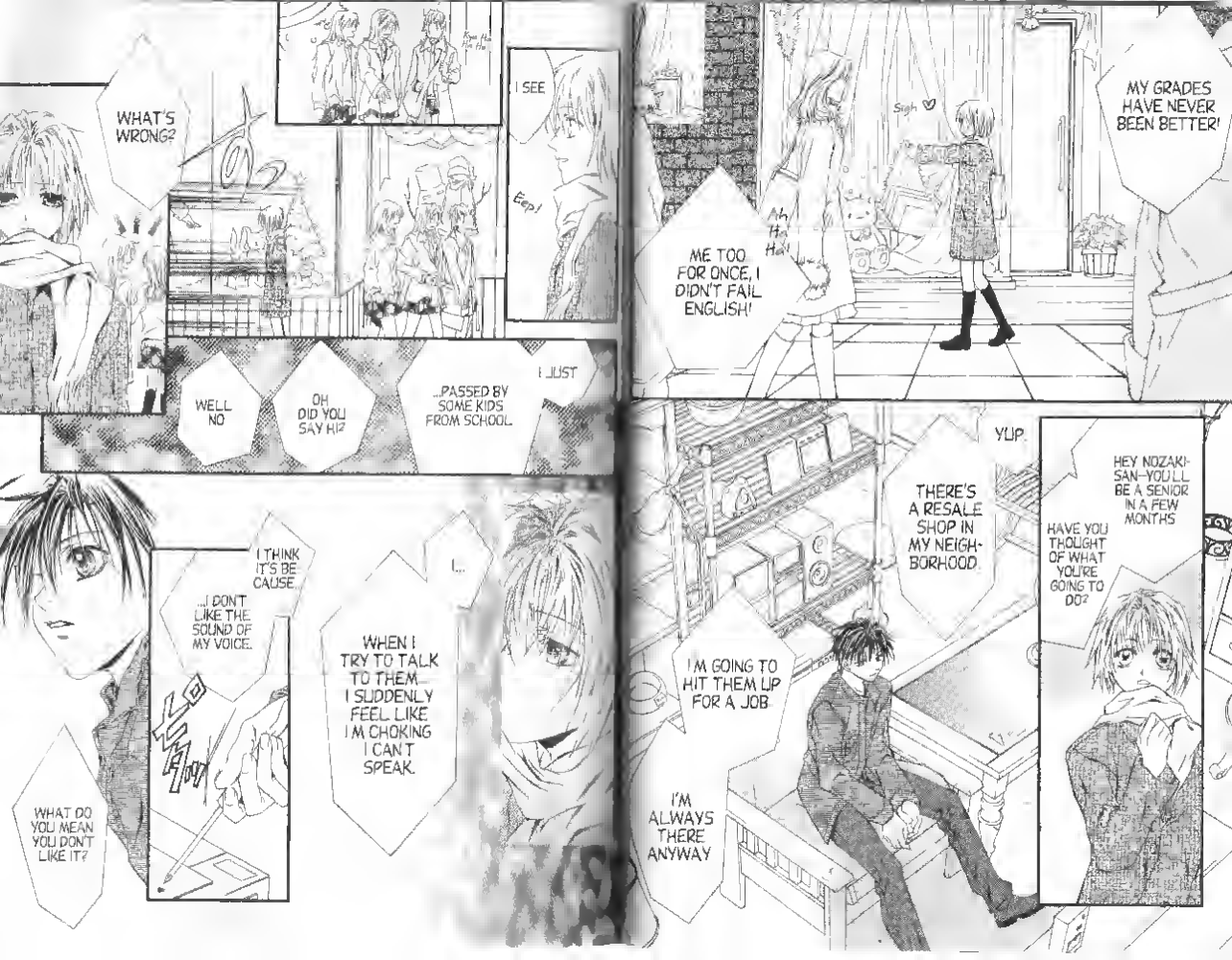
IT IS NICE TO BE ABLE TO HELP EACH OTHER!
NO, REALLY
IN THE CLASS ROOM...
BECAUSE NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TALK TO NOZAKI-SAN OVER THE 'PHONE...
I'M SO TERRIBLY LONELY
AND I
SO SCARED
AS SOON AS I HANG UP THE PHONE...
I'M ALONE AGAIN.
...THE REALITY OF MY LIFE DOESN'T CHANGE ONE BIT.
LIKE EVERY ONE'S LEFT ME BEHIND
THAT'S WHEN THE SADNESS REALLY HITS ME...


WHAT'S WRONG?
I SEE
Eep!
WELL NO
OH DID YOU SAY HI?
...PASSED BY SOME KIDS FROM SCHOOL.
I JUST
Sigh ♡
Ah Ha Ha!
ME TOO. FOR ONCE, I DIDN'T FAIL ENGLISH!
MY GRADES HAVE NEVER BEEN BETTER!
YUP.
THERE'S A RESALE SHOP IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD.
I'M GOING TO HIT THEM UP FOR A JOB.
I'M ALWAYS THERE ANYWAY
HEY NOZAKI-SAN—YOU'LL BE A SENIOR IN A FEW MONTHS.
HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO?
I...
WHEN I TRY TO TALK TO THEM... I SUDDENLY FEEL LIKE I'M CHOKING. I CAN'T SPEAK.
I THINK IT'S BECAUSE...
...I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF MY VOICE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T LIKE IT?

I HATE MY VOICE
I HATE IT SO MUCH I WANT TO SLICE OUT MY VOCAL CHORDS!
NOZAKI SAN...?
DON'T SAY THAT. DON'T SAY YOU HATE YOUR VOICE
I THINK IF YOU STARTED TO TALK A LITTLE MORE AT SCHOOL...
...YOU WOULD START TO LIKE YOUR VOICE
M
MAYBE

I SEE...
MY VOICE IS SHRILL. IT'S UGLY.
I DON'T REALLY SPEND A LOT OF TIME TALKING...
...SO WHEN I DO, MY TOUNGUE DOESN'T MOVE AND MY MOUTH MAKES THIS SQUEAKING SOUND
SO I'D RATHER JUST NOT TALK AT ALL.

ISN'T THAT DUMB?
I LIKE YOUR HAIR
IN GRADE SCHOOL
I WORE THE SAME HAIRSTYLE FOR TWO YEARS BECAUSE THIS GIRL SAID SHE LIKED IT
BUT..
LOOK AT HER
HER HAIR IS AWFUL
ONLY WHEN THEY LAUGH AT ME DO I REALIZE MY MISTAKE
I JUST DIDN'T GET IT
JOKES OR SMALL TALK I TAKE EVERYTHING SO SERIOUSLY
A DEFECT?
I HAVE THIS DEFECT SORT OF A KNACK FOR DESTROYING CONVERSATIONS
WELL...
DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS FOR CHRISTMAS TOMORROW?
COME ON!
GOD I FEEL SO SHY!
ARE WE REALLY GOING TO DO THIS?
HUH?
WHAT MADE YOU NOT WANT TO TALK?

HE FEELS CLOSE
...ARE MELTING AWAY
ALL OF THE THINGS THAT HURT ME
SO CLOSE
EVEN THOUGH HE'S SO FAR AWAY
...PENETRATING THROUGH THEM
HIS WORDS
YOU LISTEN ...TO PEOPLE VERY CLOSELY
WHAT IS IT?
AIHARA-SAN
YES?
RYO AIHARA-SAN
AND THAT'S NOT A DEFECT
SO WHEN THOSE WORDS ARE FALSE, THEY HURT YOU
AND YOU TRY TO TAKE EACH WORD... ...FOR ITS FULL MEANING IN EARNEST

IT'S REALLY COLD HERE!
I'M HOPING...
...IT GETS WARM SOON!
SO...
YOU GO THERE EVERY DAY TO PRACTICE YOUR VOICE?
NOZAKI-SAN IN HOKKAIDO!
CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
I WILL BE PROUD OF MY VOICE!
MY VOICE!
DID IT REACH YOU?!
カチ
SO...
I'LL BE BRAVE
Umm...
IT'S DECEMBER 25TH. CHRISTMAS DAY
I'M HERE BY THE RIVER AND THERE'S NOT A SOUL AROUND
FOR THIS DAY...

SURPRISED...
GOOD MORNING...
GOOD MORNING!
G-
NO NOZAKI-SAN! NOZAKI-SAN!
THEY ANSWERED ME. THEY SAID "GOOD MORNING"!
YEP!
THAT'S GREAT CONGRATU-LATIONS
I OWE IT ALL TO YOU, NOZAKI-SAN! THANK YOU!

REALLY?
I CAN SPEAK CLEARLY
She calls by first name in me!
Hey, Hey!
THAT'S RIGHT
IT'S ALREADY BEEN A WHOLE MONTH
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
NOZAKI-SAN, H-HERE I GO!
OKAY
GOOD LUCK!
WHEN I TALK TO HARADA-SAN, I FEEL CALM.
I HOPE I CAN BE LIKE HER ONE DAY.
OH, IT'S NOTHING.
I WAS JUST LOST IN THOUGHT.
SO THINGS ARE GOING WELL FOR YOU GUYS! THAT'S GOOD

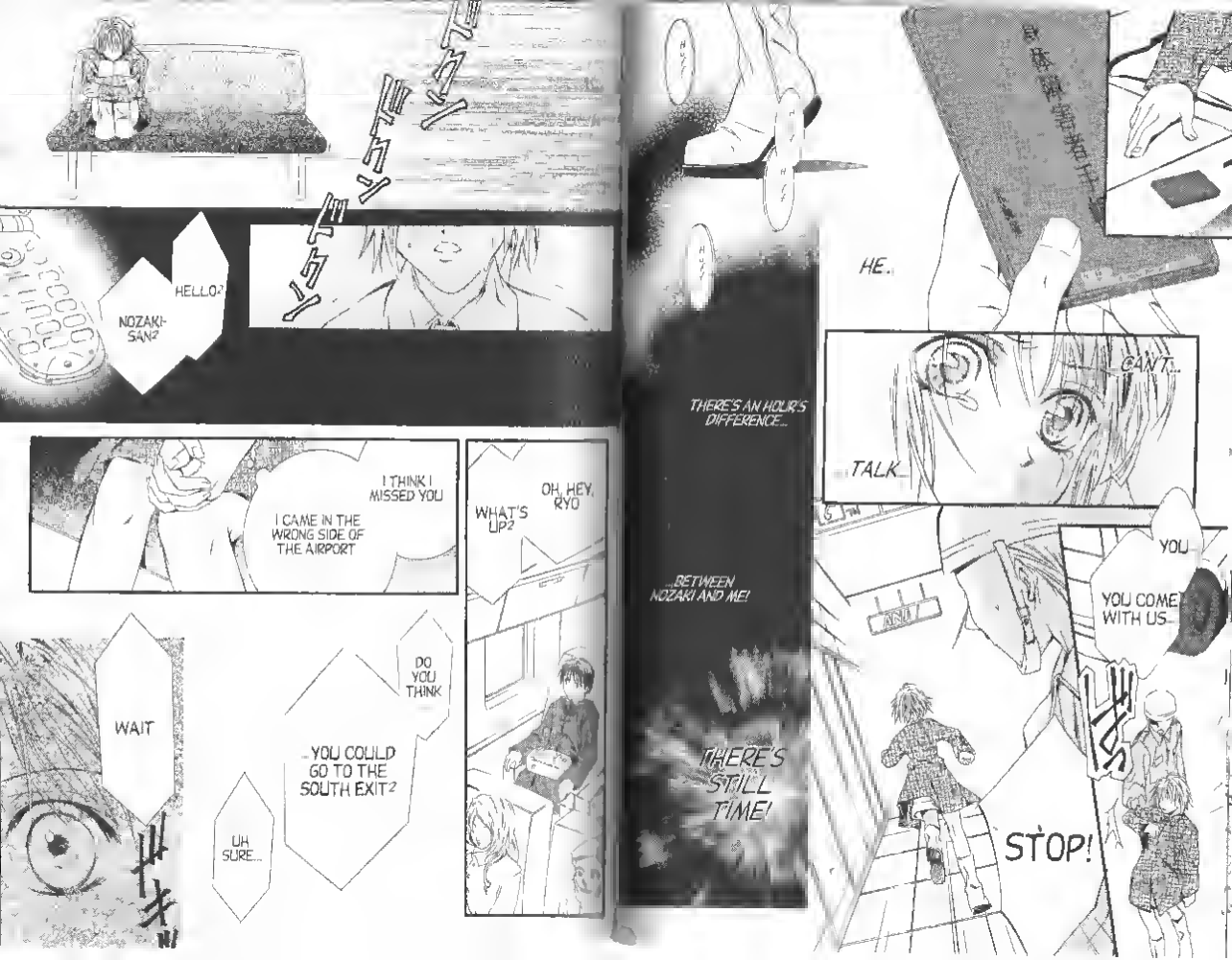
HELLO HARADA-SAN?
WE'RE FINALLY GOING TO MEET IN PERSON
I NEVER EVEN THOUGHT OF HIM AS BEING REAL.
WHOA, I'M ALREADY GETTING NERVOUS
DON'T THINK ABOUT IT JUST GET TO THE AIRPORT MEET HIM AT BAGGAGE CLAIM
WAIT!
DON'T GO!

SO
I'LL GIVE YOU MY BOOM BOX
AS A REWARD FOR BEING SO BRAVE...
WILL I BE ABLE TO CHANGE...
A LITTLE AT A TIME?
WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO MEET ME?
I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU WHEN I SEE YOU
WHAT?
IT'S THE ONE I TOLD YOU ABOUT THE ONE I FIXED. DO YOU WANT IT?
OH, I DO!

RYO-SAN
YES?
IT'S NOTHING
WHAT?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
PHEW
I'M PROUD OF YOU.
SHE'S PRETTY
SIGH
I WONDER WHAT NOZAKI SAN WILL THINK OF ME?
I'M SORRY
THERE'S A TRAFFIC JAM. I MIGHT BE LATE.
THEN I'LL WAIT FOR YOU AT THE BUS STOP
I'M LOOKING FOR A WHITE BOOM BOX RIGHT?
HEY
YES?
THERE'S ONE THING I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU
WHAT IS IT?

WHEN I SEE HIM
WHAT DO I SAY?
I'M I'M FINE
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WHAT
I'M HERE NOZAKI-SAN
OKAY I'LL SEE YOU REAL SOON
Phew!
Sigh

AH!
NOZAKI SAN?
NOZAKI-SAN!
WHAT?
SOMEONE, QUICK! GET AN AMBU-LANCE!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
H-HEY..
SOMEONE PUSHED ME, AND..
OH MY GOD! THIS KID IS DYING!


HELLO?
NOZAKI-SAN?
I THINK I MISSED YOU
I CAME IN THE WRONG SIDE OF THE AIRPORT
OH, HEY, RYO
WHAT'S UP?
WAIT
DO YOU THINK
...YOU COULD GO TO THE SOUTH EXIT?
UH, SURE...
HUH?
HUH?
HUH?
THERE'S AN HOUR'S DIFFERENCE...
...BETWEEN NOZAKI AND ME!
THERE'S STILL TIME!
HE..
...CAN'T...
...TALK...
YOU
YOU COME WITH US...
STOP!

I'LL BE THERE REAL SOON
TELL ME HOW TO FIND YOU
I'LL HELP YOU AGAIN
WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?
NO... I CAN'T.
YOU
...TRIED TO HELP ME AND...
YOUR BUS GOT THERE AT TEN PAST TEN RIGHT?
LET NOZAKI SAN FIND ME
I'M WEARING...
SIGH
I'M WEARING A WHITE COAT... AND CARRYING A LARGE BAG.
WAS ON THE SAME BUS AS ME
OH THAT GIRL...
JUST-- GO BACK!!
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
YOU MUST HAVE ALREADY MET ME BY NOW.
WHY DO YOU WANT ME TO DO THAT?
CAR?!
WHAT? WHAT HAPPENED WITH... CAR?
W-WELL...
WHY DIDN'T YOU ANSWER ME?
IT'S BEEN THIRTY MINUTES SINCE OUR LAST CONVERSATION
WHEN YOU LAND...
DON'T GET OFF THE PLANE JUST GO BACK.
NO... STOP...!
TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED!
NO...!
CAR
A CAR
WHATEVER IT IS YOU CAN'T CHANGE IT!
IT WILL HAPPEN AGAIN!

NOZAKI-SAN
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU SOUND LIKE DO YOU?
I THINK WHAT YOU'RE HEARING NOW MUST BE MY REAL VOICE
WHEN I FIRST CALLED YOU...
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I EVER FELT AS IF SOMEONE COULD HEAR ME
ME TOO!
IT WAS A LOT OF FUN.
NOZAKI-SAN!
I'M GLAD WE WERE ABLE TO TALK!
I'D ALWAYS WONDERED
WHAT?
WHY A TOGETHER GUY LIKE YOU..
WOULD HAVE AN IMAGINARY CELL PHONE
WELL... I GUESS I WANTED A REAL ONE.
THOUGH THAT WOULD BE POINTLESS

PLEASE, GOD...
NOZAKI-SAN!
THE CAR...
NO! THAT'S NOT YOU!
NO...! HOW...?
YOU MADE ONE ERROR.
NO! STOP!
THAT'S YOU! THERE!

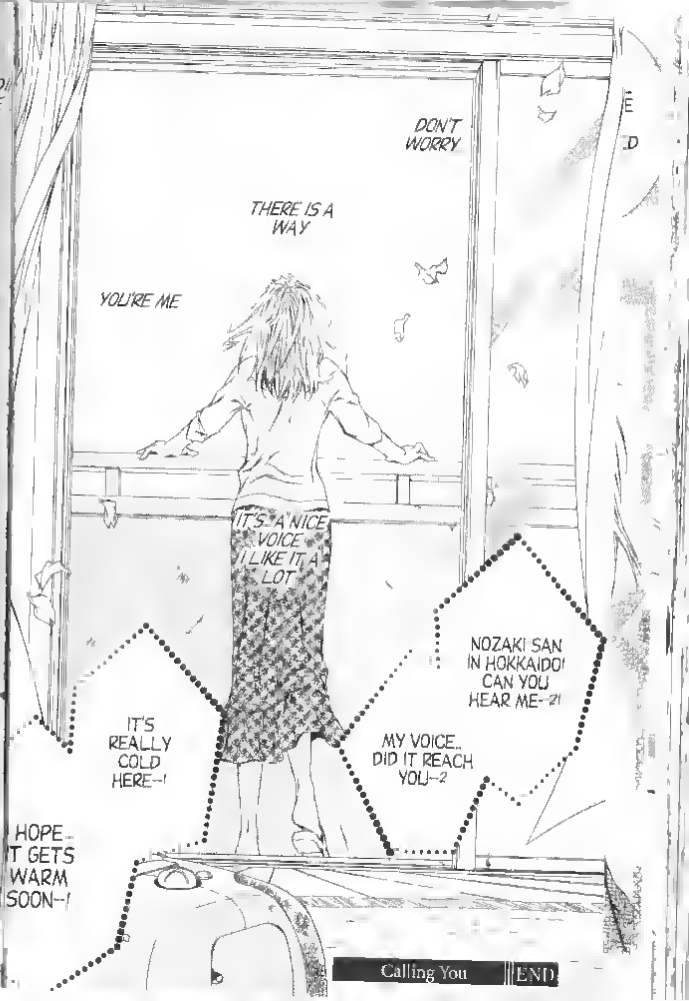
FOR SOMEONE TO HEAR MY VOICE!
NO, REALLY! I WAITED SO LONG...
...FOR SOMEONE TO TALK TO!
I REALLY, TRULY THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
A GIRL WITH A WHITE COAT!
THERE.

I LIKE IT A LOT.
BLEEK
IT'S...
...A NICE VOICE.
I CAN HEAR
YOUR REAL VOICE FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME.
ARE YOU... OKAY?
I PUSHED YOU TOO HARD...
N-NO...
YOU SAID YOU HAD A PINKLE KEYCHAIN
THANKS TO THAT LITTLE BEAR...
...I HOPE IT'S NOT BROKEN...
YOUR BOOM BOX
AH...
YOU JUST SAID MY NAME NOZAKI SAN
...THIS IS WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE.
SO
SEE?
I KNEW IT WAS YOU YOU'RE NEXT TO ME NOW

I'M IN HOKKAIDO...
THE FUNERAL JUST ENDED
I DON'T KNOW WHY I WAS CHOSEN...
BUT THERE MUST BE A REASON
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S EVER HEARD HIS VOICE.
WHY COULD I HEAR HIM?
AND... WHY CAN I HEAR HER?
...HELLO?
HARADA SAN?
RYO-SAN
IT'S FEBRUARY HERE
IS IT SUMMER OVER THERE?
YES
YOU WON'T SEE THIS SUMMER FOR A LONG LONG TIME.
YOU TOLD ME NOT TO GET ON THE BUS I FIGURED IT OUT FROM THERE
...THIS YEAR'S SUMMER... OR NEXT YEAR'S.
BUT NOT...
NO.
YOUR LAST NAME HARADA
WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

HERE IT COMES!
-BUT JUST YOU WAIT
WE'LL MEET AGAIN... IN A MIRACLE
ER... SORRY TO CALL OUT OF THE BLUE LIKE THIS I'M NOT A BAD PERSON... OR ANYTHING--
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
HARD TO BELIEVE, HUH?
OH... YOU'LL SEE YOU'RE GOING TO GET MARRIED SOON
WILL I EVER BE AS GROWN UP AS YOU ARE?
NOT IN SIX WEEKS OR SIX MONTHS...
TIME IS OUR ONLY DIFFERENCE
YOU WILL...
WILL I...?

HE WAS BUILDING A DOGHOUSE
BUT FOR SOME REASON I DON'T REMEMBER THE DOG AT ALL...
AND HE PAT ME ON THE HEAD EVERY ONCE IN AWHILE AS I SAT NEXT TO HIM, WATCHING
THIS IS DEPRESSING I THINK I'M CONFUSING A DREAM FOR A MEMORY
HEY--YOUR DAD GAVE YOU THAT BRUISE HUH?
傷
前編
KIZ/KIDS


DON'T WORRY
THERE IS A WAY
YOU'RE ME
IT'S A NICE VOICE I LIKE IT A LOT
NOZAKI SAN IN HOKKAIDO! CAN YOU HEAR ME--?!
IT'S REALLY COLD HERE--!
MY VOICE... DID IT REACH YOU--?
I HOPE IT GETS WARM SOON--!
Calling You
END

後編

KIZ/KIDS

WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHOA!
I'M SORRY!
I'M REALLY SORRY!
THAT'S TRUE ASATO-KUN...
ALL THE KIDS IN YOUR NEW CLASS WORK VERY HARD AND TRY TO DO THEIR ABSOLUTE BEST!
WELL? SAY SOMETHING
Heh Heh Heh Heh
YOUR DAD BEATS YA, RIGHT?
EVERYONE HERE IS KIND AND GENTLE
I THINK YOU'LL MAKE LOTS OF FRIENDS HERE.

THE MINUTE I SAW HIM.
I COULDN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF OF HIM.
COME ON ASATO-KUN I'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR NEW CLASS' ROOM
ASATO-KUN?
HUFF!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
WHAT'S WRONG ASATO-KUN?
WHY ARE YOU SO SCARED?
AH..

ガラガラん
← Pudding
……
Oooooo
がたん
OH, NUTS
ボタボタ…
Ack!

Shields way up!
Um
SPECIAL ED...
THE REPOSITORY FOR KIDS WHO, FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, CAN'T HACK IT IN NORMAL CLASSES
特殊学級
Tokushu Gakkyuu
IT WAS INEVITABLE
HAH I KNEW THIS DAY WOULD COME I FINALLY LANDED IN SPECIAL ED
HMMM... FOR SURE
Yum
KEIGO-KUN SINCE YOU AND ASATO-KUN ARE IN THE SAME GRADE YOU CAN SIT NEXT TO HIM
RIGHTO
AH! IT'S HIM!

HUH?
I'M SORRY THAT HAPPENED TO YOU
EH
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT HE DIDN'T MEAN IT
NO SWEAT
APPARENTLY IT WAS A BIT DIFFERENT FROM WHAT THE REPORT HAD LED HER TO BELIEVE
OH BOY
HEY THAT CLOUD LOOKS LIKE PUDDING
I wonder if I could eat it
KEIGO KUN
YOU'RE NOT ANGRY?
PUD DINNNG SHAN SHORRY
This!
PUDDING SAN I AM SORRY
HEY KID YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DO WHEN THIS HAPPENS?
Huh
NICE WORK!
WIPE WIPE
.....

HE WAS BULLYING A FRIEND OF MINE.
HOW COULD HE DO THIS TO MY SPECIAL, SWEET BOY?!
LOOK AT THESE BITE MARKS!
WHY DID YOU DO THIS KEIGO KUN?
OH DEAR I'M SO SORRY THIS HAPPENED
WHAT IF THE SCAR DOESN'T GO AWAY?
MY BOY WOULD NEVER DO SUCH A THING!
WELL, I NEVER!
YOU GOOD-FOR-NOTHING BRAT!
I SUPPOSE I SHOULD EXPECT LIES OUT OF A BOY WITH NO MOTHER!
YOUR HALF!
OH IT'S ONII CHAN!*
HI AGAIN
HERE YA GO!
From Floor
NO ONE HERE WILL PICK ON ME.
EVERYONE'S JUST WORKING HIS HARDEST TO KEEP UP.
WE ALL JUST DO OUR BEST.
MAYBE SPECIAL ED WON'T BE SO BAD!

HE HASN'T SAID A WORD YET?
I GUESS WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE A MOTHER WELL, HE'S A CUTE KID. BUT...
BUT HIS MOTHER'S IN PRISON
HE'S BEEN BOUNCING AROUND FROM HOME TO HOME
ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT ASATO?
I HEARD NOW HE'S STAYING WITH, WELL, YOU KNOW
SOME DISTANT, DISTANT RELATIVE, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT
ADULTS LOVE TO TALK ABOUT THIS STUFF
I MEAN THEY REPOSSESSED MY HOUSE, BUT
HE'S JUST LIKE ME.
SHE NEVER CAME HOME
THE NEW KID "IN SPECIAL ED" ISN'T HE THAT SAME KID WHOSE FAMILY...?
DAMN ADULTS

NO! NO! STOP! STOP!
I'D RATHER HAVE NO MOTHER THAN A MOTHER LIKE YOU!
LEAVE MY MOTHER OUT OF THIS!
BUT IT'S NOT MY FAULT
Henry Weight
After Thirst
Sitting Straight
"I'LL BE HOME LATE"
"KEIGO..."
"I HAVE TO STOP BY THE POST OFFICE."
"I'M SORRY KEIGO."

くるっぽー
MAYBE SHUTTING HIMSELF OFF IS HOW HE DEALS WITH HIS PAIN... HOW HE PROTECTS HIMSELF FROM THE WORLD
HE MUST REALLY NOT WANT TO GO HOME
I'LL MAKE A DOG NEXT TIME
IT'S STUCK
DAMN
ONE DAY...
IT'S BEAUTIFUL. I'VE DECIDED TO PUT IT ON DISPLAY
YOU'RE GOOD, ONII-CHAN!
THAT'S RIGHT!
THAT?
THEY GOSSIP ABOUT US TO FEEL BETTER ABOUT THEIR OWN LIVES, ACTING LIKE THEY'RE CONCERNED
I REALIZED THAT ADULTS ARE FULL OF BULLSHIT
I USE VIOLENCE TO DEAL WITH MY FEELINGS
AND CLOSED HIMSELF OFF TO ALL OF THEM

OH, SORRY.
I THOUGHT MAYBE YOUR CUT WOULD CLOSE IF I DID THAT
WHAT A FUNNY KID YOU ARE
Like all a sprained finger needs is to be pulled?
HUH?
IS IT JUST ME OR HAS IT GOTTEN SMALLER?
MY CUT
I'M USED TO THIS KIND OF—
ARE...
THEY'D BETTER NOT TAKE AWAY MY KNIFE FOR THIS!
Fast and good also
ARE YOU HURT?
AH!
WHAT.. HOW..
Is it a ghost or some thing?

Its true then!
Dead Serious!
A-ASATO'S CUT IS...
GETTING DEEPER...
AND MINE IS
..DISAP-PEARING!
SEE? I SPLIT IT.
NOW IT'S EQUAL. WE'LL EACH HAVE HALF
DID HE HAVE THAT CUT BEFORE
NAH IT CAN'T BE
NO ONE CAN JUST MOVE WOUNDS
HUH?!
SHOULD I
DO IT AGAIN?
DON'T BE AN IDIOT!

ASATO HAS THE ABILITY TO TOUCH PEOPLE...
AND TAKE ON THEIR WOUNDS
Waaah...
ASATO!
Waaaah!
THAT KID..!
IF HE KEEPS DOING THIS, HIS BODY WILL BE COVERED IN THEM!
COME ON ASATO!
Why are you doing this?
YOU'VE TAKEN ALL KINDS OF WOUNDS HAVEN'T YOU?
YOUR BELLY
W-
WAIT
NO!
S-SORRY
HUH?
AH
Sharp !!
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENS, BUT IT CAN'T BE GOOD!
You're gonna rip my shirt!
GYAAA! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

OH SORRY!
MY BACK?
BUT THE JOKE'S ON HIM. NOW HE'S BEEN LAID UP IN THE HOSPITAL FOR THE LAST MONTH.
Huh
SERVES HIM RIGHT
YEAH. MY OLD MAN THREW AN IRON AT ME WHEN HE WAS DRUNK.
THE KIDS ALWAYS PICKED ON ME
BECAUSE OF THIS LITTLE MARK OF HIS LOVE
HE JUST FELT LIKE IT?
I JUST FELT LIKE IT
HUH?
Let's go home.
Ah!
CUTS AREN'T THE ONLY THING HE CAN MOVE!
Asato!
Asato!
GIMME BACK MY BRUISE

C'MON—
IT'S NICE OUT!
LEAVE HIM ALONE ASATO.
I'M WARNING YOU! LEAVE HIM ALONE!
Oh no
THANKS YOU TWO
HERE... BUY YOUR-SELVES A SNACK!
Uh
Idiot idiot
Holy—!
LISTEN, ASATO!

NO.
Then why do you want it?
It won't sell much anyway!
THEN WHY NOT GIVE IT TO US?
This one, for example looks terrible!
YOU CAN READ ROMANJI?
IT'S ON YOUR NAMETAG
WHAT'S THAT SPOSED TO MEAN?
HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
I mean you telling you.
FINE FINE
WELL... THIS IS FAREWELL THEN SHIHO
Pffft
SHIHO!
AFTER THAT WE WENT TO SEE SHIHO EVERY DAY
We're cousins!
HUH?!
For real?
WELL, I GUESS MAYBE I COULD..
GIVE YOU ONE LEFTOVER ICE CREAM.

Very Serious
RIGHT!!!
THIS IS TURNING POINT IN OUR LIVES!
WE'VE GOT JUST ENOUGH MONEY FOR ONE ICE CREAM! WE MUST CHOOSE WISELY!

HEY!
HER MASK
WAS SHE BURNED?
I'M THINKING MAYBE
..THAT IF YOU DIDN'T SELL ONE FOR A FEW DAYS IT'D GO BAD, WOULDN'T IT?
WHAT HAPPENS TO THE ICE CREAM YOU DON'T SELL?
DO YOU THROW IT OUT OR KEEP IT FOR THE NEXT DAY?
WELL YES
AH
HEY THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN THIS GIRL UP CLOSE
She's always worn a mask.

UM..
THAT'S OKAY
WHY DON'T YOU LET SHIHO GIVE YOU A NEW ONE?
YOU'RE STILL WEARING THAT BANDAGE?
I see.
UGH
THE ONLY REASON
PEOPLE DON'T LIKE ME.. THE ONLY REASON THE GUYS PICK ON ME..
THAT'S TOO BAD SEEING AS YOUR MOM LEFT YOU TOO..
INTRUDER ALERT
IGNORE IGNORE
HEY
SO I HEAR YOUR DAD'S GOING TO CROAK SOON
COME TO THINK OF IT NEITHER OF YOU HAS A REAL FAMILY
SHUT UP!

KEIGO..IF YOU GOOF OFF YOU WON'T GET YOUR REWARD
AND WE DIDN'T CARE ABOUT HER MASK, OR WHAT WAS BEHIND IT
SHIHO DIDN'T MOCK US FOR BEING IN SPECIAL ED
I WONDER WHICH FLAVOR WE'LL GET TODAY..
OH?
HEY ASATO-KUN YOU HAVE A CUT ON YOUR HAND!
DOES IT HURT? WAIT A MINUTE OKAY?
OH UH THIS IS..
Ugh
THANK YOU
BE-CAUSE..
WHY SHOULD WE?
ぺっ
たんこ

QUIT IT, ASATO!!
Break
YOU...!
ASATO
2
YOU JUST CAN'T GET OVER ME PUSHING YOU OUT THE SECOND FLOOR WINDOW?
I'LL DO IT AGAIN ASSHOLE!
IT IS ALL MY DAD'S FAULT!
AHH!
IT'S BROKEN!
HEH HEH HEH
AAARAGA

HE CAN MOVE THE WOUNDS TO ANOTHER PERSON.
I... I COULD USE THIS...
...THIS STRANGE POWER THAT ASATO HAS
WOUNDS CAN BE SHIFTED TO ANOTHER BODY
AND I KNOW JUST THE BODY TO MOVE THEM TO
JUST THE BODY.

THE HELL RE YOU?
AH--!
AAAH.....
WHAT?
HRRGH
OH!
AH!
AH!
AH!

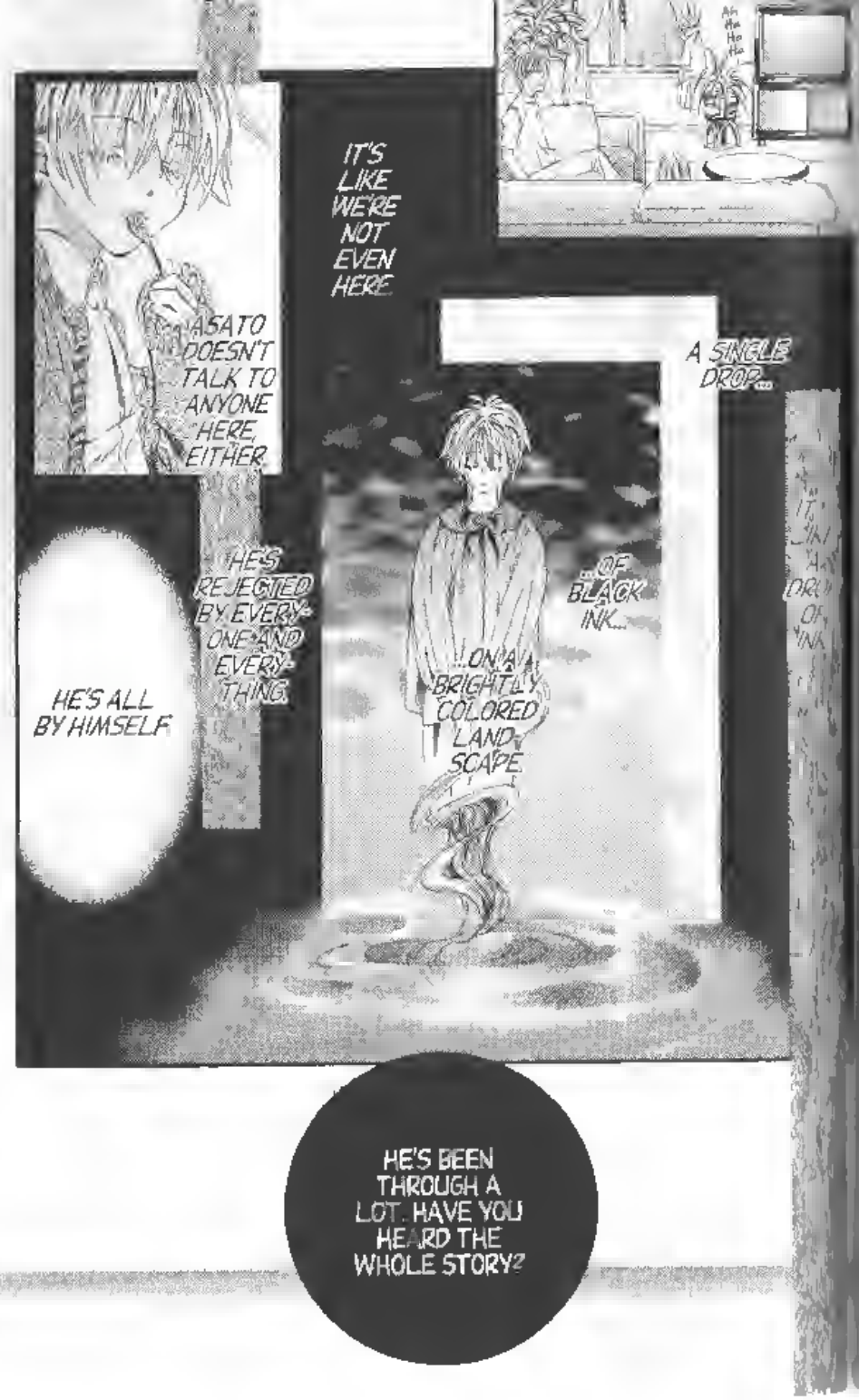
SOMETIMES HE WOULD DRIVE US OUT OF THE HOUSE BAREFOOT
HE USED TO SCREAM AT ME WHEN HE DRANK
AT MY MOM AND ME
WHEN I HEARD HE WASN'T GOING TO MAKE IT...
I WAS RELIEVED

YOU GO ON WITHOUT ME, ASATO
JUST MOVE YOUR WOUNDS TO HIS BODY OKAY?

WHAT DO WE POSSIBLY HAVE TO SHOW THE PARENTS?
MOST OF US CAN'T EVEN DO SCHOOL WORK.
WHAT'S THAT FACE FOR?
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THEY CAN DO SCHOOL WORK.
WHAT INDEED? MAYBE HOW HARD...
..YOU KIDS WORK AT SCHOOL.
WHAT MATTERS IS THAT THEY CARE THAT THEY RAISE THEIR HANDS HIGH WHAT PARENT WOULDN'T WANT TO SEE THAT?
MAYBE AT LEAST SEEING THEIR KIDS IN CLASS WILL BRING THEM A GLIMMER OF HOPE
WITH ALL THE DESPAIR THESE PARENTS FEEL EVERY TIME SOMETHING GOES WRONG.
BUT..THE POST OFFICE IS SO FAR.
FINALLY, A QUIET LIFE WITH MOM.
I'LL NEVER CRY, NO MATTER WHAT.
HE'S THE CAUSE OF EVERYTHING WRONG IN MY LIFE
STUPID OLD MAN. JUST CROAK ALREADY
WOULD YOU TAKE THIS FLYER..
TO ASATO'S HOUSE?
Visiting Day!
Parent or
Teacher

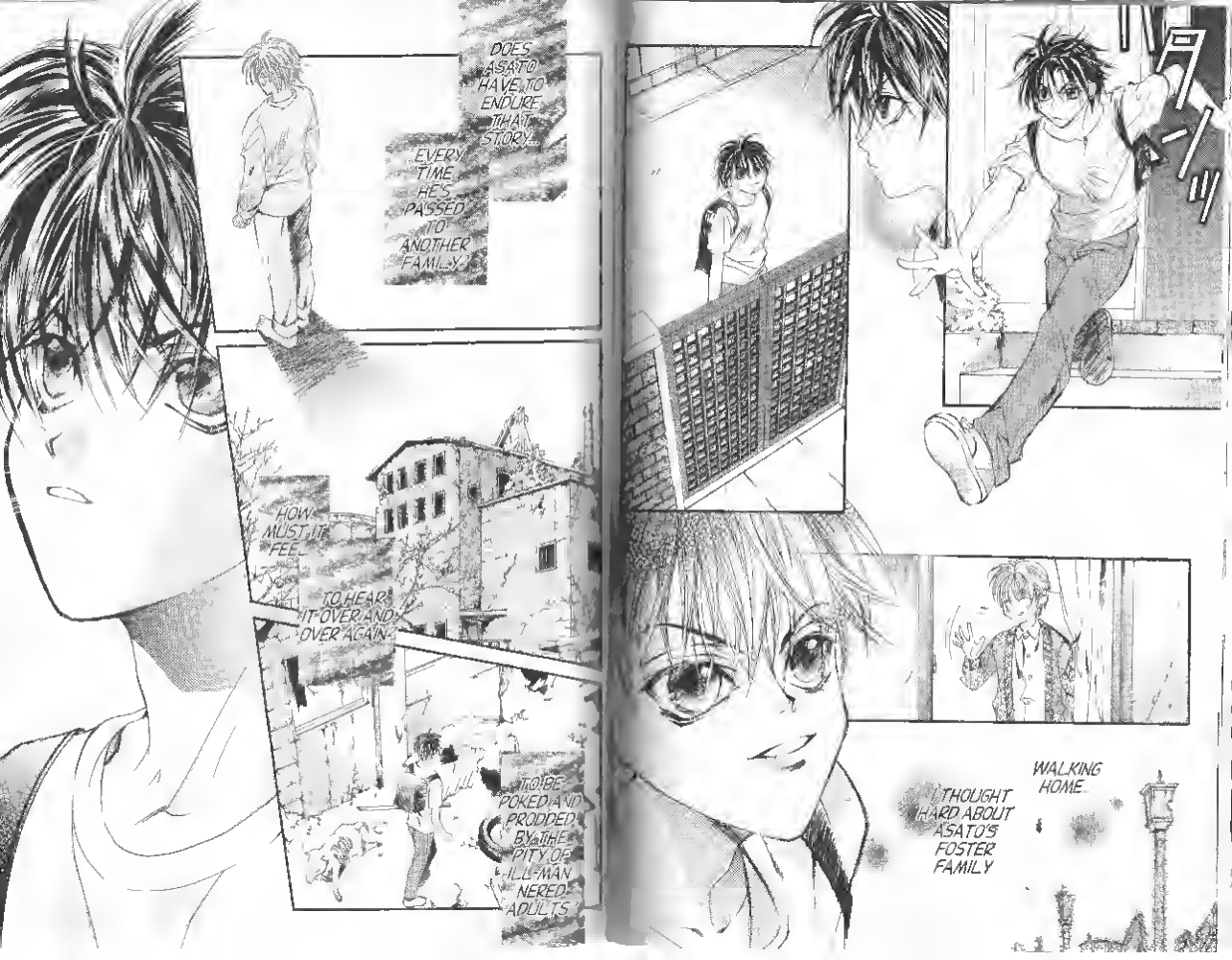
HEY
This is kind of embarrassing
YOU CAME!
H-HEY.
Here's my mom
SO THERE ARE OTHER KIDS
HUH
I'm home!
UH HUH.
WILL YOU STAY FOR DINNER?

ALL RIGHT, TEACH.
BUT NO ONE FROM MY FAMILY WILL COME...ASATO'S EITHER
.....
ガチャ
WHO ARE YOU?
I'M ASATO-KUN'S FRIEND I BROUGHT HIM SOMETHING FROM SCHOOL.


ASATO DOESN'T TALK TO ANYONE HERE, EITHER.
IT'S LIKE WE'RE NOT EVEN HERE.
A SINGLE DROP...
...OF BLACK INK...
...ON A BRIGHTLY COLORED LANDSCAPE.
HE'S REJECTED BY EVERY-ONE AND EVERY-THING.
HE'S ALL BY HIMSELF.
HE'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT. HAVE YOU HEARD THE WHOLE STORY?

I'LL HAVE TO TAKE HIM TO THE OLD MAN AGAIN.
YES
ASATO-KUN, CAN YOU COME DOWNSTAIRS?
I TRIED TO WIPE OFF HIS SWEAT WITH A TOWEL...
...BUT HE REFUSES TO REMOVE HIS CLOTHES!
IF YOU KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO HAVE A VISITOR...
YOU COULD'VE AT LEAST WIPED YOURSELF OFF!
YOU! BEFORE YOU CAUGHT A COLD...
YOU TOOK ON ANOTHER WOUND DIDN'T YOU?
IT'S STRANGE, THOUGH
Hey, this is yours!

SHE KILLED HER HUSBAND, AND THEN TRIED TO TAKE THE LIFE OF HER OWN SON-
WH
WHA...
DON'T EVER...
...TALK LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF HIM AGAIN!
カタ
HE WAS PRONOUNCED LEGALLY DEAD AT THE HOSPITAL
HIS MOTHER HAD STABBED HIM.
AND THEN ONE DAY, SNAP!
A NORMAL, BORING HOUSEWIFE.
THE FLOOR WAS COVERED IN BLOOD
IT WAS A GRUESOME SIGHT
A LOT?
WELL, YES?
I THOUGHT YOU KNEW


DOES ASATO HAVE TO ENDURE THAT STORY...
EVERY TIME HE'S PASSED TO ANOTHER FAMILY.
HOW MUST IT FEEL...
TO HEAR IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN...
TO BE POKED AND PRODDED BY THE PITY OF ILL-MANNERED ADULTS.
I THOUGHT HARD ABOUT ASATO'S FOSTER FAMILY
WALKING HOME...

SHIHO!
SHIHO?
WHAT'S WRONG?
IF IT'S NOTHING WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
OH IT'S NOTHING

I CAN'T SEE STARS ANY MORE THEY'RE GONE
IT'S GONE TOO
LIKE THE SCAR I GOT FROM THE IRON THE OLD MAN THREW
AND RIGHT WHERE IT BE LONGS

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
HOW COULD
DID YOU DO THIS ASATO-KUN?
I CAN TAKE AWAY YOUR BURN TOO
I JUST
WISH I DIDN'T HAVE THIS SCAR!
SHIHO...
WATCH THIS
ASATO-KUN?
R-REALLY?! THREE DAYS JUST THAT MUCH?! I BEG YOU!
YOU REALLY CAN TAKE THE SCAR OFF MY FACE?
IF YOU CAN DO IT THEN PLEASE I JUST NEED THREE DAYS!
Nod

I'D LIKE TO DROWN IN THE OCEAN WITH SOMEBODY.
OR TO LIE ON A BENCH IN A DESERTED TRAIN STATION...
...AND DIE ALONE.
THESE ARE THE KINDS OF THINGS WE TALKED ABOUT.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, AS...TO

...OF BURNING FLESH.
THE STENCH...

傀

KIZ/KIDS

Setsuri Tsuzuki

Original story by Otsuichi

WHEN ASATO TOUCHED SHIHO...
I SMELLED BURNING FLESH
SHIHO...
SHIHO
WHAT'S WRONG? SHOW US YOUR FACE, SHIHO.
OH MY GOD IT'S GONE! REALLY!!
OH!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. IT'S A DREAM COME TRUE!
I'M GLAD

ASATO!
JEEZ!
THEY'RE ALL THE SAME
PEOPLE TEND TO NOTICE A BURNED FACE
THIS ..?
JUST WEAR THAT, OKAY?
I WONDER WHAT'S IT'S FOSTER FAMILY THOUGHT WHEN THE BURN MARK APPEARED ON HIS FACE.
ASATO WON'T SAY ANY THING, OF COURSE. BUT
WHY AM I THE ONE WHO CAN'T STAND IT?

YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL.
SHIHO..
WELL, THEN..
SEE YOU IN THREE DAYS.
OH..
THANK YOU!

DO YOU THINK MY MOTHER DIDN'T WANT ME?
NO!
STOP IT!
WE'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE
A HAPPINESS OTHERS TAKE FOR GRANTED
WILL EVER SEE AGAIN
ONE THAT NEITHER OF US..
WHEN YOU'RE MOM GETS OUT OF PRISON..
..YOU'LL LIVE WITH HER AGAIN RIGHT?
ASATO?
KOHN

WHY DOES LIFE HAVE TO HURT SO MUCH?
Sob
WE'RE JUST TWO KIDS TRYING TO GET BY
BUT THE WORLD JUST WON'T CUT US A BREAK
WHY DOES IT HURT SO MUCH?
WHY!
TO BE IN PAIN
IS SHE EVER COMING BACK?
NO ONE WANTS
SHE CAN'T HELP IT
SHE SAID THREE DAYS

WHO HATES MY OLD M. N.
IT'S TOO HEAVY, DAMMIT!
EVERYONE SAYS THEY HOPE HE DIES SOON.
AND BECAUSE THEY HATE HIM, THEY HATE ME, TOO.
I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE...
BUT BACK WHEN HE WAS SORT OF NICE...
IT'S THE OLD MAN'S
WHAT'S THIS?
OH, THAT?
JUST GO DUMP IT SOME WHERE KID
IT'S YOUR FATHER'S. I'M ASSUMING YOU DON'T WANT IT

IN TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST, EXPECT HEAVY RAINS IN THE AFTERNOON.
SO DON'T FORGET TO TAKE AN UMBRELLA!
LET'S GIVE THAT BURN MARK TO THE OLD MAN!
ASATO!
I REMEMBER BEING PATTED ON THE HEAD GENTLY AS HE WAS BUILDING A DOGHOUSE.
WAS THAT SOMETHING I MADE UP?
OF HAVING A DOG
I HAVE NO RECOLLECTION.
Sigh
WELL, SHOOT.
THE EVIDENCE THAT THE OLD MAN LIVED.
THE OLD MAN'S STUFF THAT I THREW AWAY.
GOD DAMMIT!
IT'S JUST THAT THE BOX WAS SO HEAVY AND...
THE WIND IS TOO LOUD!
I can't sleep!
Rattle Rattle
Not really

HELP ASATO OUT! RIGHT?
WE'RE NOT GONNA BE OUTCASTS ANYMORE!
THAT THE OLD MAN..
THERE HE IS

BUT
IT'S THE ONLY WAY!
BUT WE CAN JUST SAY WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT.
YOU HAVE TO GIVE IT TO SOMEONE!
YOU CAN'T KEEP IT FOR YOURSELF!
IF A BURN MARK APPEARS ON THE OLD MAN'S FACE.
IT ONLY SEEMS FAIR.
EVERYONE WILL WONDER HOW IT GOT THERE

ガラン
バタバタバタ
HEY!
STOP YOU!

EVEN IF HE WEREN'T ABOUT TO DIE, HE'D STILL NEVER COME TO VISITING DAY.
AND SATO'S AUNT...OR WHATEVER SHE IS...ISN'T COMING EITHER.
THE TEACHER SAID THE ADULTS WANTED TO SEE HOW WELL THE KIDS ARE DOING.
NO ONE CARES HOW ASATO AND ME ARE DOING.
WE'RE NOT DOING WELL.
AND NO ONE CARES IF WE LIVE OR DIE.

HE WAS VIOLENT AND SELFISH. HE MADE MY LIFE... HELL... BUT
THE OLD MAN WAS A SAD BASTARD...
HIM? I DON'T KNOW HIM.
I DON'T KNOW THIS GU...
BUT THIS MAN IS... IS...

DAD...?

WHO
...IS THIS?

Ulp!

WHA... WHAT THE ?!

THE OLD MAN IS DEAD
HAH...
IS DEAD

ピ
Wobble
WHO'RE YOU?

COULD YOU MOVE ALL OF THE WOUNDS FROM MY FATHER TO ME?
AH
N-
IT JUST ISN'T RIGHT
FOR HIM TO GO LIKE THIS
NO
I CAN'T
ASATO!

AHH!
IF I TURNED MY BACK ON HIM THEN HE'D HAVE NO ONE AT ALL TO MOURN HIM
I COULDN'T HELP IT
AHH!
AHH!
AHH!
AHH!
ASATO

DAMN IT, ASATO!
MY CUT IS GONE!
I thought I'd have a scar for sure!
OH, HUH?
HEY ME TOO!!
HUH?!

NO!
HEY—STOP YOU!
THERE'S NO SCAR! NOT EVEN FROM HIS SURGERY!

#7

ASATO..

LOOK.
IT'S BETTER IF I TAKE IT
BECAUSE I DON'T WANT THEM TO HURT
DON'T TAKE ANY MORE WOUNDS.
WHY
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
DON'T LOOK AWAY.
NO ONE WANTS ME
WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!

wobble
I JUST ..
..DON'T WANT TO LIVE ANYMORE
AND SHE
..SHE HAD A KNIFE AND..
AND
I WAS SLEEPING IN MY BED
SHE WOKE ME UP
MY MOTHER..
..THE NIGHT SHE KILLED MY DAD..

WEE OOOO
WEE OOOO
THE SCAR FROM THE IRON..
HE'S TAKING IT WITH HIM.
HE'S TAKING IT ALL!
ASATO!
I'M SORRY
NO!

BUT IT WASN'T ABOUT YOU SHE HAD HER OWN REASONS
ASATO I DON'T KNOW WHY YOUR MOTHER TRIED TO KILL YOU
NO
LIKE SHIHO HAD HER REASONS FOR BAILING ON US..
..AND MY MOTHER HAD HER REASONS FOR NEVER COMING HOME.
MAYBE WE'RE UNLUCKY
BUT THERE IS NO WAY IN HELL...
WEE-OOOO WEE-OOOO
...THAT YOU'RE UNWANTED!

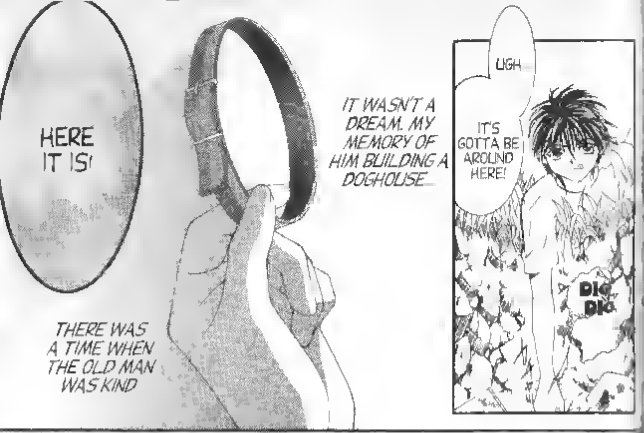
WHA
MY LEGS!
UH,
HE'S GIVING ME WOUNDS.
HE'S SERIOUS!
WAIT, ASATO!!
HE'S GOING TO DO IT.
HE'S GOING TO DIE.
NO STOP
STOP, ASATO!
STOP!!

ボキッ
ボキッ
NOOOOO!

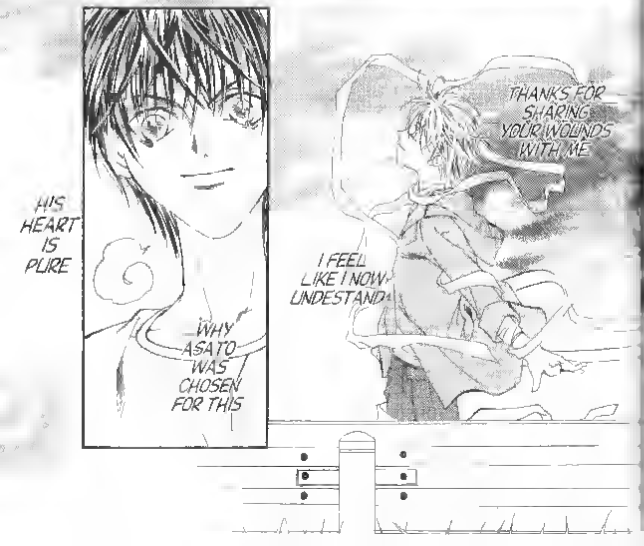
I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO SHARE YOU AND ME... HALF AND HALF
HALF THE SADNESS. HALF THE PAIN.
C'MON ASATO! GIVE ME HALF OF YOUR WOUNDS!
PLEASE...
I BEG YOU
ASATO
ASATO?

I HOPE
BUT YOU BORE IT LIKE NO ONE ELSE COULD
NO ONE
WANTS TO BE IN PAIN
ASATO 2
A WORLD WITHOUT PAIN
YOU'VE NOW FINALLY FOUND
PLEASE... DON'T CRY.
WHERE'S THAT BIG DUMB SMILE?
YOU CAN'T YOU
ALWAYS GOTTA KEEP SMILING
THE TIME I SPENT WITH YOU MADE ME HAPPY.

DID YOUR UNCLE AND AUNT COME TO VISIT?
OH YEAH IT REALLY SURPRISED ME
WHAT ABOUT YOU? HOW WAS VISITING DAY?
Oh Ho Ho Ho Ho!
I see.
THE KIDS IN CLASS MISS YOU
RIGHT YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT
NO IT'S TRUE! YOU'RE A BIG HELP WITH THE KIDS
THEY'RE ALL VERY FOND OF YOU
GET WELL SOON
WHY WON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED?
BESIDES
IT'S SORT OF OUR SECRET
...I SEE.
IF I DID... YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME
YOU MUST BE VERY GOOD FRIENDS
YOU TWO ARE INJURED IN EXACTLY THE SAME PLACES
UH...?
HUHHH...?
YUP...SHE SAID IT, ASATO.
Still half asleep
ALL RIGHT
I'M GOING OUT
Hold down the text tokoro?
WHAT?
WAIT! I'LL GO TOO!
NO YOU STAY HERE
I'M GOING!!

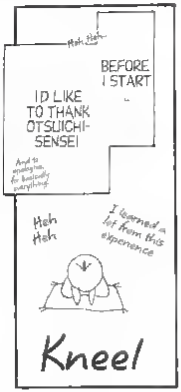

HERE IT IS!
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE OLD MAN WAS KIND
IT WASN'T A DREAM. MY MEMORY OF HIM BUILDING A DOGHOUSE...
UGH
IT'S GOTTA BE AROUND HERE!
DIG DIG

UH-HUH
WAIT THERE, ASATO


HIS HEART IS PURE
WHY ASATO WAS CHOSEN FOR THIS
I FEEL LIKE I NOW UNDESTAND
THANKS FOR SHARING YOUR WOUNDS WITH ME

...WANTS TO STAY KIND AND GOOD.
EVERYONE IN THEIR HEARTS.
BUT JUST LIKE ANYONE WHO DEALS WITH PAIN AND SADNESS...
ASA--
...WE'LL CHANGE
NO MATTER WHO OR WHERE THEY ARE
THANKS ASATO

Postscript

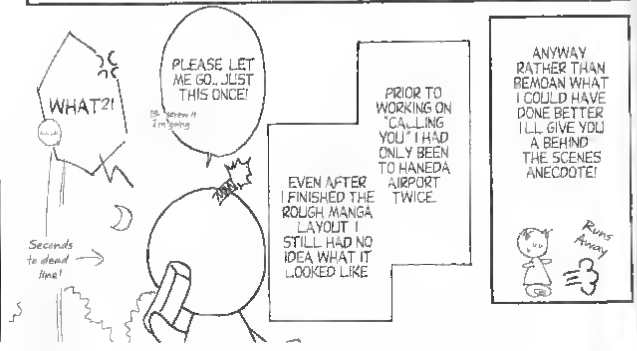

Heh Heh
BEFORE I START
I'D LIKE TO THANK OTSUICHI-SENSEI
And to everyone for basically everything!
Heh Heh
I learned a lot from this experience
Kneel

I'll be discussing the manga so please read it first!

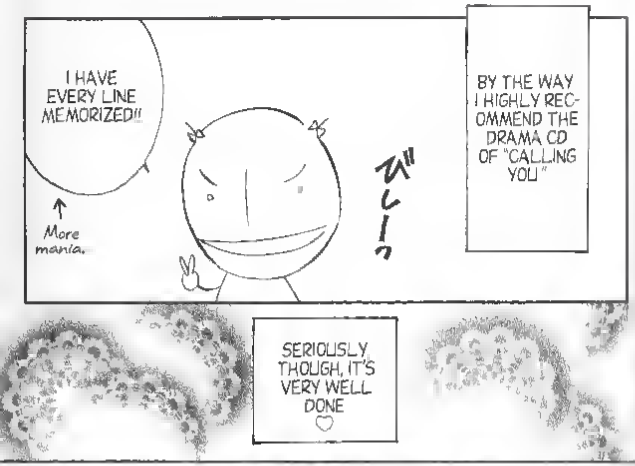
THANKS FOR BUYING THIS BOOK.

I'M TSUZUKI THE MAIN ARTIST

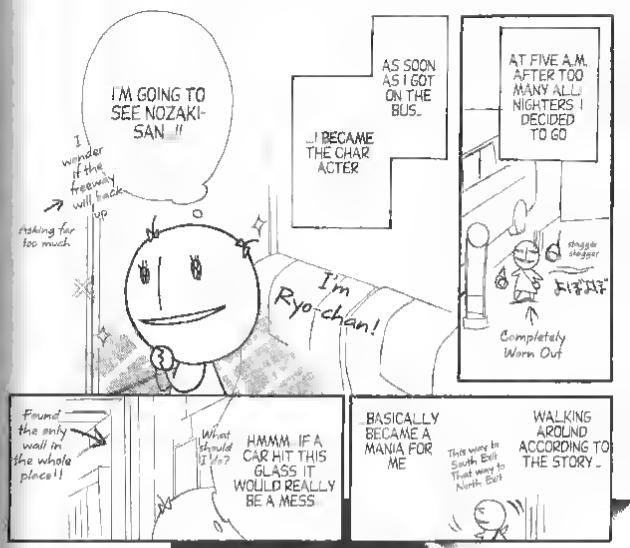
FOR SOME THAT'S ENOUGH LUCK TO LAST A LIFETIME
Just a big ol' fangirl
So embarrassed!
Before I received this assignment I had already gotten my own book signed!
NOT TO MENTION MY FAVORITE WRITER!
IT WAS MY FIRST WORK WITH AN ORIGINAL AUTHOR


WHAT?!
PLEASE LET ME GO.. JUST THIS ONCE!
I know it I'm going
Seconds to dead line!
EVEN AFTER I FINISHED THE ROUGH MANGA LAYOUT I STILL HAD NO IDEA WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE
PRIOR TO WORKING ON "CALLING YOU" I HAD ONLY BEEN TO HANEDA AIRPORT TWICE.
ANYWAY RATHER THAN BEMOAN WHAT I COULD HAVE DONE BETTER I'LL GIVE YOU A BEHIND THE SCENES ANECDOTE!
Runs Away

I HOPE YOU'RE BOTH DOING WELL.
MOM. SHIHO.
SOMEONE UP THERE LOVES YOU VERY MUCH.
SEE? THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE NOT WANTED.
KIZ/KIDS
END


I HAVE EVERY LINE MEMORIZED!!
More mania.
BY THE WAY I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THE DRAMA CD OF "CALLING YOU"
SERIOUSLY THOUGH, IT'S VERY WELL DONE

special thanks!
OTSUICHI-SENSEI!
EACH AND EVERY EDITOR IN CHARGE!
ALL THE PRINCESSES WHO HELPED ME OUT!
EVERYONE WHO READ THE MANGA!
IF YOU HAVE TIME, PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!
As for what I'm doing now?
Well I go to the pool a lot and sink and float...
float


I'M GOING TO SEE NOZAKI-SAN...!!
I wonder if the freeway will back up
risking far too much
AS SOON AS I GOT ON THE BUS...
...I BECAME THE CHARACTER
AT FIVE A.M. AFTER TOO MANY ALL NIGHTERS I DECIDED TO GO
stagger stagger
Completely Worn Out
I'm Ryo-chan!
Found the only wall in the whole place!!
What should I do?
HMMM. IF A CAR HIT THIS GLASS IT WOULD REALLY BE A MESS
...BASICALLY BECAME A MANIA FOR ME
This way to South East That way to North East
WALKING AROUND ACCORDING TO THE STORY...

STRANGE WOMAN, CRYING AT A WALL SEVEN A.M.
NOZAKI SAN...!
のおお
Waaaa!
SO THAT MEANS NOZAKI-SAN WILL... RIGHT HERE...!